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REMARKS

~~Responsive to the outstanding Office Action, applicant has carefully studied the~~
Examiner's rejections. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and arguments is respectfully requested.

A response to this action was due, with a one month extension, on January 1, 2006. As January 1, 2006, fell on a Sunday, and January 2, 2006 was a federal holiday, it is respectfully submitted that the submission of this amendment today, January 3, 2006, with a one month extension of time, is timely.

It is noted that the Examiner's Action does not specify a shortened statutory reply period. Per a telephone call to the Examiner on September 14, 2005, it was established that there should be a three month shortened reply period. Thus, this response is being submitted in conjunction with a request for a 1 month extension of time.

The claims pending in the application are claims 1-20. In the response, claim 16 has been amended and claims 21-26 have been canceled. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced in these amendments.

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

As claims 21-26 are drawn to a non-elected species, these claims have been canceled herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102 and 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 16, 18 and 20 under 35 USC §102(b), as being anticipated by Stevens et al (US 5,686,178). Claims 1-15 and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC §103, as being unpatentable over Stevens et al. Independent claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §103.

The invention as defined in claim 1 provides a method for producing an iron oxide coating on a glass article. The method comprises providing a heated glass substrate having a surface on which the coating is to be deposited and directing ferrocene and an oxidant toward and along the surface to be coated. The ferrocene

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and the oxidant are reacted at or near the surface of the glass substrate to form an iron oxide coating

~~US 5,686,178 to Stevens discloses "chaff with transient radar absorbance and/or~~
reflectance characteristics, having utility as an electronic warfare countermeasure useful in an absorbance mode for at least partial attenuation of radar signals, and useful in a reflectance mode as an electromagnetic detection decoy or for anti-detection masking of an offensive attack." The summary of the invention of Stevens notes that "[t]he present invention broadly relates to an article comprising a non-conductive substrate having a thickness of an *oxidizable* metal coating thereon, wherein the *oxidizable metal coating is rapidly oxidized in use to an oxidized state.*" (emphasis added.) It is noted in this application that the coating on the substrate is to remain oxidizable until exposed to atmosphere. This instruction is furthered by the application of an oxidation encouraging salt as shown in the reference: "the salt-doped oxidizable metal coating is characterized by a radar signature which in the presence of moisture, e.g., *atmospheric humidity*, decays as a result of progressive oxidation of the oxidizable metal coating, with the rate of such oxidation being accelerated by the salt constituent present on the oxidizable metal coating (emphasis added.) This, it can be seen that the applied reference teaches the deposition of a metal layer on a substrate, which can later be oxidized when exposed to the atmosphere. In fact, the functionality of the applied reference is dependent upon having this oxidizable layer.

Contrary to this, claim 1 teaches that ferrocene and an oxidant are directed toward and along the surface to be coated and are reacted at or near the surface of the glass substrate to form an iron oxide coating. There is no suggestion that a metal layer be first deposited and then the deposited metal layer later be reacted with an oxidant to deposit an iron oxide layer on the substrate, as is required in the process of Stevens. Thus Stevens teaches the deposition of an iron metal coating on a substrate, with the metallic iron coating being oxidizable when exposed to atmospheric conditions. This is contrary to the present invention which teaches the deposition of an iron oxide coating, which would not be expected to react to atmospheric conditions.

On the basis of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is fully distinguishable over the art of record.

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Further, claim 2 of the present invention calls for an inert carrier gas. The Stevens reference only suggests the use of hydrogen as a carrier gas for ferrocene.

~~Hydrogen would not be suitable as a carrier gas in the present invention as it would not~~
be classifiable as inert. On this basis claim 2 further distinguishes over the art of record.

Claim 6 further teaches that the iron oxide layer is deposited at a rate of greater than or equal to about 200 Å/sec. As noted above, the applied reference teaches the deposition of a metallic layer, not a metal oxide layer. The layer is later converted to an iron oxide. Thus, it cannot be stated that Stevens teaches the deposition of iron oxide at a rate of greater than or equal to about 200 Å/sec. On this basis claim 6 further distinguishes over the art of record

Claim 15 calls for the process to be carried out in an on-line float glass production process. The applied reference teaches that the substrate should be a fibrous material that can be easily dispersed in the atmosphere, and that is biodegradable. Fibrous, biodegradable materials are not suitable for on-line float glass processes, as would be recognized by one skilled in the art. It should also be noted that the reference only suggests the use of a glass substrate where the glass has a high water solubility. This is noted in Stevens which states "[a]nother substrate candidate material is soluble glass. In the production of many silicate glasses, some amount of boria (boron oxide) is added to enhance processability. Boria has a lower melt flow temperature and lower viscosity than silica and is easier to spin, extrude, or otherwise process. Considered an unfavorable property for most glass applications, boria has an extremely high moisture sensitivity and is typically used in low concentrations. Boria is hygroscopic and in high purity it very rapidly absorbs moisture from the air causing a steady degradation of physical integrity." As noted in Stevens, this property of glass is generally not desirable, and in fact would only be desirable in similar applications wherein the user wanted the glass to dissolve. For most applications, including that of the present invention, such a glass property would not only be undesirable, but also completely unacceptable. On this basis claim 15 further distinguishes over the art of record.

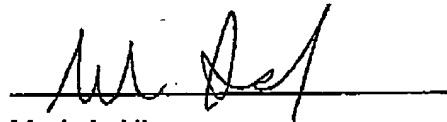
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Independent claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b). Claim 16 has been amended herein to claim a method of utilizing ferrocene in a chemical vapor deposition process to form an iron oxide layer on a substrate, wherein the ferrocene and an oxidant are mixed and delivered to the substrate for use in the chemical vapor deposition process. Support for this amendment can be found, at least, in paragraph 8 of the application, wherein it is noted that ferrocene and an oxidant are directed toward and along the glass sheet to be coated, and *the mixture* is reacted to form the iron oxide coating. Thus, claim 16 requires that ferrocene and an oxidant be mixed and that the mixture be reacted. This is contrary to the Stevens reference, as noted above, wherein it is clear that the ferrocene is used to deposit a metal layer, and that, in a later step, when exposed to atmosphere the atmosphere oxidizes the metallic iron layer to form an iron oxide layer. Thus, amended claim 16 fully distinguishes over the art of record.

Claims 2-15 and 17-20, which depend, directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 or 16, are believed to be allowable based, at least, upon this dependence from what are believed to be allowable base claims. Therefore, all of the claims are believed to be allowable over the applied art of record.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, and action towards that end is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner wish to modify the application in any way, applicant's attorney suggests a telephone interview in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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